

**REMARKS**

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Applicant notes that claim 3 has been canceled and claims 1 and 4-10 have been amended. Thus, claims 1-2 and 4-10 are pending in the application.

**Section 103 Rejections:**

In the Office Action, claims 1-2 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a). The Office Action, however, indicated that claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Applicant thanks the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter. Applicant, accordingly, has amended claim 1 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Applicant has also amended claims 8-10 to recite subject matter similar to claim 1. Therefore, because claims 1 and 8-10 have been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103(a) rejections with respect to claims 1-2 and 8-10 be withdrawn.


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-2 and 4-10 are in condition for allowance. Applicant, accordingly, respectfully requests that a notice of allowance be issued with respect to claims 1-2 and 4-10.

Please charge any fees which may be required, except the issue fee, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Date: April 19, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By

  
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